

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 8-12 and 14 are amended, and claim 13 is cancelled.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the priority documents have been acknowledged and received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and that the references filed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 22, 2004 have been considered.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the September 20, 2005 Office Action that the drawings have been accepted.

Still further, Applicant notes with appreciation the personal interview granted Applicant's representatives on December 19, 2005. During the personal interview, proposed amendments were discussed that overcome the cited prior art. However, Examiner Langdon indicated that the proposed amendments would raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. Accordingly a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed concurrently with this Amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The term "essentially" has been removed from the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C § 112, second paragraph is overcome and respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Balke (U.S. Patent No. 1,437,954) in view of Orange (U.S. Patent No. 5,513,819) and Zuk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,791,590, herein Zuk). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons detailed below and as discussed during the personal interview on December 19, 2005.

Amended claim 1 recites the following:

1. A bobbin of plastic comprising:
a cylinder formed integrally with two circumferential end flanges having a one piece injection moulded U-shaped channel,
wherein each cylinder includes a plurality of cylinder elements each having a slightly curved, radially inner surface forming a circumference of the cylinder and each end flange includes a plurality of spaced-apart, radial flange elements which are distributed along the circumference of the cylinder. (emphasis added)

Amended independent claims 8 and 14 recite similar features.

The cited references of Balke, Orange and Zuk all describe bobbins or reels made of a flat piece of material, such as paper or fluted plastic, respectively, which are punched, folded, and thereafter bent to form a cylinder. Applicant respectfully submits that the none of the cited references of Balke, Orange and Zuk, either alone or in any proper combination, disclose, teach, or suggest a bobbin of plastic including a cylinder “wherein each cylinder includes a plurality of cylinder elements each having a slightly curved, radially inner surface forming a circumference of the cylinder,” as recited in amended claim 1; a method of manufacturing a bobbin of plastic including “injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel, the one piece U-shaped channel having a plurality of cylinder elements with a slightly curved surface,” as recited in amended claim 8; or a bobbin of plastic including

“wherein each portion of a base of the U-shaped channel has a slightly curved radially inner surface, which forms an inner circumference of the cylinder,” as recited in amended claim 14.

Therefore, in light of at least the above-discussed deficiencies in the cited references, which were discussed during the personal interview on December 19, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to independent claims 1, 8 and 14 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-7 and 9-12 depend from independent claims 1 and 8, respectively, and therefore include the features of independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-7 and 9-12 are patentably distinguished over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 8.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Balke as modified by Orange and Zuk, and further in view of Koskelainen (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,974). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the reasons detailed below.

Koskelainen describes a coiling system for coiling and uncoiling of an elongated flexible element.¹ However, Koskelainen fails to cure the deficiencies of Balke, Orange and Zuk as discussed above with respect to the features of independent claims 1, 8 and 14. Dependent claim 7 includes the features of independent claim 1, and therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 7 is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason that independent claim 1 is allowable over the references of Balke, Orange, and Zuk.

¹ Koskelainen, Abstract.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Balke as modified by Orange and Zuk, and further in view of Koskelainen, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-12 and 14 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

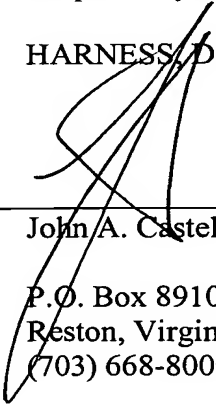
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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